

SECRET

OLC 69-0614

8 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Meeting with Senator John Stennis (D., Miss.)
on DOD Fact Sheets**

1. Bill Spell, on Senator John Stennis' personal staff, called at about 9:15 this morning and asked if a senior Agency official could see the Senator at 10:00 concerning the fact sheets which were prepared by the Department of Defense and which were submitted to us for review this past weekend. He said the Senator wanted assurance from an Agency official that the information in these documents reflects the position of the intelligence community. General Cushman designated Mr. Duckett and Mr. Bruce Clarke and I accompanied them.

2. When we arrived at Senator Stennis' office we found that Admiral Lawrence, Deputy Director, DIA, and Colonel James Brower, OSD Legislative Liaison Officer, were present, along with [REDACTED] 25X1
The Senator asked essentially what Mr. Spell had indicated, i.e., whether the information in the DOD papers represented a coordinated position. The Senator was assured that the figures were taken from the appropriate national intelligence estimates and Admiral Lawrence named the USIB participants. We suggested, however, that the Senator not make any mention of NIE's in his floor statement since this would attract attention to the estimates as such and might possibly result in a demand that the estimates themselves be placed in the classified record. The Senator saw the wisdom of this and agreed that the best approach would be to indicate that the information in his statement represented the coordinated position of the intelligence community. He would then specify the composition of the intelligence community.

3. The Senator reviewed the material briefly and asked several times if there were any items in it that we would prefer to have deleted. Mr. Duckett suggested that the Senator might want to omit any discussion [REDACTED] 25X1

SECRET

CRC, 7/19/2003

SECRET

4. Senator Stennis said he proposed to indicate in his statement that the information he was giving in closed session was from sensitive sources (which he would decline to discuss), pointing out that any public discussion of this information could result in the drying up of these sources. The Senator also expressed concern that members of the Senate might take this opportunity to try to solicit information about CIA and its budget, but he indicated that he plans to stand firm to a position not to discuss those points at this time.

5. During the session, which was both friendly and informal, Mr. Duckett made it clear that he was authorized to speak for the Director and expressed the Director's position that he was neither for nor against the Safeguard program but was concerned only with providing the best possible intelligence information on which the policymakers could base their judgments. Mr. Duckett went on to point out the difference between the Director's position and that of the Secretary of Defense in this regard.

6. We also alerted Senator Stennis to the fact that he might be confronted with different figures by members of the Senate, who received Committee briefings at different points in time, with an apparent disparity between the figures given them and those presented by Senator Stennis. It was pointed out that the situation has changed in recent weeks and months and will continue to change; therefore, he should point out that the figures which he is using are current as of this date. The Senator appreciated the importance of this point.

7. The meeting lasted approximately one hour and fifteen minutes and ended with the Senator expressing his very deep appreciation for the time and assistance of those present.

25X1A



Deputy Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject (Stennis)

- 1 - OLC Chrono
- 1 - DD/S&T
- 1 - OSR

OLC/GLC:gs (11 July 1969)

SECRET